

HADEDA IBIS

APPEARANCE:

A grey-to-partly brown species of Ibis.

It has a narrow, white, roughly horizontal stripe across its cheeks. This is sometimes called the "moustache" though it does not reach the mouth corners.

CALL:

It has an extremely loud and distinctive "haa-haa-haa-de-dah" call—hence the name

SIZE:

about 76 cm long

HABITAT:

The hadeda ibis is found throughout Sub-Saharan Africa in open grasslands, savanna and wetlands, as well as urban parks, school fields, green corridors and large gardens.

DIET:

It feeds mainly on earthworms, using its long scimitar-like bill to probe soft soil. It also eats larger insects, such as the Parktown prawn, as well as spiders and small lizards.



CAPE SUN BIRD

APPEARANCE:

A grey-brown bird that easily recognisable by a spot of yellow under its tail and the very long tail feathers present in males. Another characteristic of the Cape sugarbird is the sound it makes when it flies. The main flight feathers are arranged in such a way that when the bird beats its wings, a frt-frt sound is made with the intention of attracting females

CALL:

It has an squeaky loud chirp

SIZE:

The male is 34–44 cm long, and the shorter-tailed, shorter-billed, and paler breasted female 25–29 cm long.

HABITAT:

The Cape sugarbird (*Promerops cafer*) is one of the six bird species endemic to the Fynbos biome of the Western Cape and Eastern Cape provinces of South Africa.

DIET:

It is a nectar feeder



BLUE CRANE

(National Bird of South Africa)

APPEARANCE:

This crane is pale blue-gray in colour becoming darker on the upper head, neck and nape. From the crown to the lores, the plumage is distinctly lighter, sometimes whitish. The bill is ochre to greyish, with a pink tinge. The long wingtip feathers which trail to the ground.

CALL:

The Blue Crane has a distinctive rattling croak, 'kraaaarrk', fairly high-pitched at call

SIZE:

It is 100–120 cm tall, with a wingspan of 180–200 cm and weighs 3.6–6.2 kg

HABITAT:

Blue cranes are birds of the dry grassy uplands, usually the pastured grasses of hills, valleys, and plains with a few scattered trees. They prefer areas in the nesting season that have access to both upland and wetland areas, though they feed almost entirely in dry areas.

DIET:

Most of their diet is comprised by grasses and sedges, with many types fed on based on their proximity to the nests. They are also regularly insectivorous, feeding on numerous, sizeable insects such as grasshoppers.



CAPE WEAVER

APPEARANCE:

The Cape weaver is a bird with streaked olive-brown upperparts and a long pointed conical bill. The breeding male has a yellow head and underparts, an orange face, and a white iris. The adult female has an olive-yellow head and breast, shading to pale yellow on the lower belly.

CALL:

The song of the Cape weaver is a harsh, rather hysterical sizzle. The alarm call is a sharp double chip and the contact call is a harsh "azwit"

SIZE:

The Cape weaver is a stocky 17 cm long bird

HABITAT:

The Cape weaver occurs in open grassland, lowland fynbos, coastal thicket and farmland, so long as there is permanent water and trees. In the more arid, hotter regions it is restricted to upland areas and it never occurs in forest.

DIET:

The Cape weaver is omnivorous with a diet that is evenly divided between animal and plant matter, particularly seeds, fruit and nectar. It forages in a variety of ways on the ground, in tree foliage, gleaning food from bark and hawking insects in the air.



Pintail Whydah

APPEARANCE:

The adult male has a black back and crown, and a very long black tail. The wings are dark brown with white patches, and the underparts and the head, apart from the crown, are white.

The bill is bright red. The female and non-breeding male have streaked brown upperparts, whitish underparts with buff flanks, and a buff and black face pattern.

They lack the long tail extension, but retain the red bill.

Immature birds are like the female but plainer and with a greyish bill.

CALL:

The song is given from a high perch, and consists of rapid squeaking and churring.

SIZE:

The pin-tailed whydah is 12–13 cm in length

HABITAT:

The pin-tailed whydah occurs in much of sub-Saharan Africa, favouring grassland, scrubs and savannah, also coming into parks and gardens.

DIET:

The diet of this species consists of seeds and grain.

